



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

For Immediate Release

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Contacts: Brian Wagner, (503) 986-0083, brian.wagner@state.or.us
Carrie Kikel, (503) 680-7651, c.kikel@comcast.net

**\$116,000 AWARDED FOR 26 ARTS BUILD COMMUNITIES GRANTS;
PROJECTS SPAN THE STATE AND ADDRESS SHARED NEEDS**

Art as a tool to effect positive change is demonstrated in 26 Oregon community-based projects awarded \$116,000 in 2014 Arts Build Communities grants from the Oregon Arts Commission.

Bandon residents collect, clean, sort and transform marine debris into art to raise awareness of the environmental impact of single use plastics and to promote healthier oceans. In Cornelius, at-risk students tackle shared social issues in a 10-week theater workshop. Eugene seniors with memory challenges experience the miracle and joy of musical retention from youth in weekly song sessions. In Baker City, Native American and Latino youth join together in performance about justice and the pursuit of individual dreams. And in Portland, middle-school students produce original plays to combat bullying.

The diverse, collaborative projects share one common theme: art as a medium to inspire community around a shared need. More than half of the dollars target communities outside of the Portland area, reflecting the range of applicant communities and the Commission's ABC funding priorities of broad geographic distribution and to target underserved audiences.

"The Arts Build Communities program demonstrates the amazing power of art to bring people together around a common purpose," says Jean Boyer Cowling, Oregon Arts Commissioner and chair of the review panel. "Though the individual grants are modest, the impact is huge in terms of building relationships and making a positive difference."

Now in its 18th year, the Arts Build Communities program annually brings hundreds of artists together with many more volunteers for meaningful projects that leverage additional funding, in-kind contributions and earned revenue that far exceed the grant amounts. In 2012 alone, the

projects reflected more than \$570,000 in spending, much of it representing salaries paid to artists and others as well as products and services purchased in the funded communities.

Arts Build Communities grants are made possible through a funding partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

The 2014 recipients are:

Arts Action Alliance Foundation, Oregon City, \$5,600

To support expansion of Youth Arts for Change a graphic art and theatre diversion program that gives youth in the County Juvenile Department and Parrott Creek residential facility a unique way to fulfill parole/treatment requirements. Working with artists, counselors and peers, youth share stories via a theatre performance or art show, developing positive self-expression and teamwork.

Contact: Cheryl Snow, (503) 655-0525, Cheryl@clackamasartsalliance.org

Artula Institute for Arts & Environmental Education, Bandon, \$4,900

To support the creation of six large mosaic panels and 150 marine debris masks for three environmental art fairs and associated workshops held in recognition of Earth Day, World Ocean Day, and International Coastal Cleanup Day. The project is intended to broaden arts audiences and attract new artists.

Contact: Angela Haseltine Pozzi, (360) 991-3891, angela@artula.org

Beaverton Arts Foundation, Beaverton, \$5,600

To support the sixth season of Ten Tiny Dances, an free public event of Contemporary and traditional dance performances in downtown Beaverton. The event highlights Beaverton's ethnic and cultural diversity, brings people downtown and increases visibility of its public art.

Contact: Elaine Worden, (503) 526-2299, eorcutt@beavertonoregon.gov

Centro Cultural of Washington County, Cornelius, \$2,700

To support a partnership with Pacific University's Applied Theater Department on a 10-week theatre training program culminating in a performance with academically at-risk Latino students. The applied theater techniques use the stage as a tool to raise awareness of and dialogue about social issues facing the students.

Contact: Jose Rivera, (503) 359-0446, jerivera@centrocultural.org

Children's Healing Art Project, Portland, \$4,900

To support Art Club, which brings the healing power of art to critically or chronically ill and disabled children and their families after or between hospitalizations.

Contact: Roxie McGovern, (503) 243-5294, roxie@chap.name

Corvallis Arts Center, Corvallis, \$5,500

To support Art in Rural Storefronts, a series of contemporary art installations in vacant commercial storefronts in the Mid-Willamette Valley. The program creates meaningful interactions between the public, private and non-profit sectors by bringing thought-provoking art projects and educational opportunities to rural communities.

Contact: Kyle DuVaul, (541) 754-1551, kyle@theartcenter.net

Deschutes Public Library Foundation, Inc., Bend, \$4,000

To support, A Novel Idea, the Deschutes Public Library's community reads program, in which residents read, discuss and explore a selected community read book together.

The project uses local artists, organizations and businesses to broaden the reach of the community read.

Contact: Suzy Olsen, (541) 312-1031, admin@dplfoundation.org

The Geezer Gallery, Portland, \$4,900

To support Vibrant Elders/Capturing Time, a program to provide six months of therapeutic art programming to 45 cognitively impaired elders in affordable housing. The project will evaluate the efficacy of art therapy for elders with and without cognitive impairment by measuring changes associated with depression, anxiety, loneliness and social engagement during and after art therapy.

Contact: Marcia Director, (503) 292-1588, Marcia@geezergallery.com

Jewish Theatre Collaborative, Portland, \$1,800

To support a production of "Naftali, Story Voyager," a play based on the folk tales of Nobel Prize winner Isaac Bashevis Singer, at 10 Clackamas County libraries during a 2014 Summer Reading Program. The play's folk tales drive home the importance of humor as a survival tool and the joys a lifelong love of reading offers.

Contact: Sacha Reich, (503) 512-0582, sacha@jewishtheatrecollaborative.org

The John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts, Eugene, \$2,500

To support Unforgettable, a weekly group song session for seniors living in area memory care facilities to provide sustained engagement in music making in the company of others. These seniors become increasingly isolated, both physically and socially, as their dementia progresses and mobility and communication skills decline. Yet, the ability to sing along with songs learned in their youth is often retained.

Contact: Ginevra Ralph, (541) 434-7002, gralph@theshedd.net

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Eugene, \$6,700

To support the launch of Día de la Familia in December 2014 as part of the museum's new Latino Engagement Plan. The event will include musician/sculptor Samuel Becerra and commemorates the feast day of the Virgin of Guadalupe, one of the most important dates in the Mexican calendar.

Contact: Jill Hartz, (541) 346-0972, hartz@uoregon.edu

Joseph Center for Arts and Culture, Joseph, \$3,500

To support the Celebration of Women in Arts during Women's Appreciation Month. The multi-disciplinary events include a visual art exhibit, musical performances, literary readings, films, classes and discussion groups to engage community members of all ages in the appreciation, study, discussion and creation of art by and about women.

Contact: Amy Zahm, (541) 432-0505, amyzahm@gmail.com

Know Your City, Portland, \$4,400

To support the East Portland Newspaper Project for middle school students at Harrison Park School and community surrounding the school in Southeast Portland. Students will learn about the history, sociology and changing demographics of the area and produce a free newspaper reflecting what they have learned to be made available at a community release event, in local businesses and online.

Contact: Marc Moscato, (971) 717-7307, marc@knowyourcity.org

Literary Arts, Portland, \$5,600

To support the Oregon Book Awards Author Tour, which will bring up to 20 of Oregon's most accomplished writers to 10 communities that have limited access to live and unique literary events. The tour is planned with local librarians, bookstore owners, literary organizations and writing groups.

Contact: Andrew Proctor, (503) 227-2583, Andrew@literary-arts.org

Medford Jazz Festival, Medford, \$3,500

To support a donated instrument program for Jackson County schoolchildren. Instruments are donated, gathered, cleaned, refurbished and distributed to school music programs hit hard by budget cuts in arts education. The program provides musical instruction for students, selected by school music instructors, who would not otherwise be able to afford lessons.

Contact: Dennis Ramsden, (541) 864-1454, drammer@charter.net

Miracle Theatre Group, Portland, \$4,200

To support a bilingual arts residency that blends Latino and Native American culture in Baker City. The three day-residency is a collaboration between Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre, Crows Shadow Institute of the Arts and Baker City School District that will create a community-based Latino arts experience culminating in a public performance of Milagro's Cuentame Coyote at Baker City's Iron Gate Theatre.

Contact: Danel Malan, (503) 236-7253 x116, malan@milagro.org

Multnomah Arts Center, Portland, \$5,600

To support the design costs and development of a business plan for the Multnomah Art Center's Arts Cottages, two buildings on the Center's campus that will become an

administrative home and meeting space for guilds and small nonprofit arts groups unable to afford their own facility.

Contact: Michael Walsh, (503) 823-2787, pkmwalsh@portlandoregon.gov

Music on the Half Shell, Roseburg, \$3,500

To support eight summer concerts from June to August for 58,000 people in Roseburg's Stewart Park next to the Umpqua River. The series, supported by community volunteers, the city of Roseburg and local businesses, book internationally known artists at reduced rates when the acts are available between major summer appearances.

Contact: Charley Thompson, (541) 677-1708, info@halfshell.org

Oregon Children's Theatre, Portland, \$3,500

To support the Bully Project to engage middle school students in the creation and performance of short plays addressing the issue of bullying. Students will submit original scripts, selected finalists will be mentored by professional playwrights and the final scripts will be performed by fellow students at a culminating community performance. The project will build connection between students and spark conversation to curb the epidemic of bullying.

Contact: Jeff Pazdalski, (503) 228-9571, jeff@octc.org

Oregon Cultural Access, Portland, \$3,500

To support the 6th Disability Pride Art & Culture Festival and the resulting diverse collaborations that result. Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, disabled Sri Lankan femme spoken word artist, will perform at the festival and lead a multi-day workshop with local artists. The Festival engages artists and audiences in intersectional social justice and disability justice through the arts.

Contact: Kathy Coleman, (503) 238-0723, kafia2008@yahoo.com

Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, \$7,000

To support the development of Community Conversations, part of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's new engagement model with Latino communities in Portland. As a means to strengthen the Festival's Rogue Valley community-building model into one that is meaningful for a distant destination audience, the project will include community dialogue with artist and activist Luis Alfaro; an improved Spanish open-captioning technology at the Festival's home to increase the number of accessible performances; and establishing baseline metrics for program evaluation.

Contact: Deborah Small, (541) 482-2111 x249, deborahs@osfashland.org

Port Orford Street Revitalization Association, Port Orford, \$4,700

To support the Port Orford Main Street Revitalization Association's effort to improve the attractiveness of, and civic pride in, the central business corridor by using movable plywood murals to beautify several buildings with empty storefronts. The murals will showcase local artists, the work of local school children and help make the Main Street a place people want to gather.

Contact: Karen Auburn, (541) 332-1307, kauborn@aol.com

Portland Art Museum, Portland, \$5,600

To support a partnership with Adelante Mujeres, a youth-outreach program in Forest Grove for Latinas ages 7-17, in developing a weeklong summer camp that fosters deep thinking about objects of personal importance and to relate that connection to works in the Museum's collection. Participants will visit the Museum twice, meet Museum staff, and participate in art-making activities.

Contact: J S May, (503) 276-4272, js.may@pam.org

Portland Taiko, Portland, \$4,900

To support "I Am Memory," a multidisciplinary collaboration between Portland Taiko and Sojourn Theatre. This site-specific performance integrates text, dance and movement created through a community-engaged process and will be developed and performed in residencies in four diverse Oregon communities of Portland, Ontario, Garibaldi/Nehalem and Estacada where participants will research and collect stories centered on the theme of identity formation.

Contact: Robin Mullins, (503) 288-2456, robin@portlandtaiko.org

Salem Art Association, Salem, \$4,900

To support Project Space, which will provide up to 35 local artists the opportunity to collaborate with one another and the community as they create contemporary, temporary, public art. At under-used but highly visible venues in Salem's city center, the community can dialogue with artists during the creation process and experience the final product during weeklong exhibitions.

Contact: John Pattison, (503) 581-2228, john@salemart.org

Well Arts Institute, Portland, \$2,500

To support "Jump at the Sun," a collaborative oral history and theatre project between Well Arts, the Urban League of Portland and the Delta Sigma Society. Through their partner organizations, Well Arts will recruit and train eight young African American women on how to gather and record oral history. The young woman chosen for the program will be matched with an elderly woman whose story she records. Professional African American actresses will perform the resulting narratives.

Contact: Katy Liljeholm, (503) 459-4500, katy@wellsart.org

The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of the Oregon Business Development Department in 1993 in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural

Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grant-making, arts and cultural information and community cultural development.

The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature, federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust.